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Eastern District of California

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STOCKTON FELON SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR FIREARM POSSESSION

Darrell Carpenter Sentenced to 15 Years in Federal Prison as an "Armed Career Criminal"

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Darrell CARPENTER, 37, of Stockton, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell to 15 years in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release. The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm on June 13, 2008.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Stockton Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun violence by networking existing local programs that target gun crime and providing these programs with additional tools necessary to be successful, including heightened coordination among federal, state, and local law enforcement, with an emphasis on more aggressive prosecutions.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt, who prosecuted the case, CARPENTER admitted in his guilty plea that on October 30, 2006, he was a passenger in a silver 2006 Toyota Corolla stopped by Stockton Police Officers. As two Stockton Police Officers approached the vehicle, they determined the defendant had an outstanding arrest warrant. Officers searched the defendant incident to his arrest and discovered a loaded .9mm caliber handgun located on his person. The defendant provided a voluntary statement to law enforcement after being advised of his Miranda rights. In his statement, the defendant admitted that he possessed the firearm for protection.

Under the federal sentencing guidelines, the defendant's extensive criminal history qualified him as an "armed career criminal" requiring a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison after his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. CARPENTER's criminal history included a felony conviction for aggravated battery of a peace officer and two separate felony convictions for cocaine trafficking.

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